



Soco Transmission &lt;socotransmission@gmail.com&gt;

## New Comment Submission

EDAW Engage &lt;info@engage.edaw.com&gt;

Sun, Sep 20, 2009 at 2:37 PM

To: info@socotransmission.com, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov, douglas.johnston@aeacom.com

A new comment has been submitted at [socotransmission.com](http://socotransmission.com).

### COMMENT

#### Meeting Attended:

I was not able to attend a meeting

#### Important Issues:

Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation), Radio or Television Interference, Noise, Health and Safety, Biological Resources, Visual / Aesthetic Resources, Proximity to Residences

#### Property Uses:

Agriculture, Residential

#### Comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not consider the timing of this comment to demonstrate a lack of concern; however, I was just notified of this proposed project on September 18, 2009, by a neighbor who will also be affected.

Upon receiving notification of the proposed project I needed to take a couple of days to research. My family owns lots 15, 16, and 18 in La Veta Acres (See Sheet Map 4 and corridor segment O). Some of my family's very best friends own Lot 14 in La Veta Acres (See Sheet Map 4 and corridor segment O). I am very disturbed by this project on a personal and emotional level as well as from an ethical, if not legal, standpoint.

First, my family has owned this property since 1982 and we have spent every summer and many winters and springs there since that year. I can not even begin to describe what an important part of our family this property plays. It is like a member of the family itself. Knowing that I get to spend my summer on that beautiful, tranquil land is a huge part of what gets me through the rest of the stressful year. It is truly heart wrenching to imagine that a 150' right of way is going to dissect this property and that all of the beautiful wildlife that I love so much will be affected by this project. Three generations of our family have loved this property and my sister, cousins, and I were already planning on our children and grandchildren enjoying this property together. We were never planning on selling this property. It is not an investment, but something that each member of our family truly and deeply loves. There is no monetary value that could be applied to this loss.

I-267-001

I-267-002

I am concerned by the fact that on your web site under Working with Landowners, you state that, "To assist with transmission line engineering and design, the companies and/or consultants would acquire temporary access or survey permission from landowners. Engineering, environmental, cultural, and land survey studies would be conducted to develop the transmission line route." No access or survey permission was ever requested or granted by either the Schauman or Kimbrough families. Had this access been requested and granted the surveyors would have seen that this property has lush and dense foliage and trees as well as various types of wildlife including chipmunks, hummingbirds, turkeys, grouse, deer, bear, mountain lions, and many more species. As you know, this information is easily accessible in the county records and both the Schauman and Kimbrough families spend a

### I-267-001: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### I-267-002: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/enviro.htm>.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/22/2009

**I-267-003**

significant amount of time at these properties throughout the year so this permission could easily have been gained. Further, by asking for requesting this access our families would have been put on notice of this proposed project and would have had a better opportunity to respond and express our concerns.

**I-267-004**

Further, if these surveys had actually been conducted on our land, they would have shown that there are numerous existing structures on lots 14 and 16. Other structures were being planned to be built on 16 and 18. The legend on Sheet Map 4 indicates that existing structures are shown on the map; however, none of our structures appear there. It is my belief based on this lack of permission for access and based on the fact that no structures are indicated on the map that the plat used in planning this project is in excess of 20 years old.

**I-267-005**

The pictures that are posted on your web site showing the land that will be affected by this project are also very misleading. You make it appear as though the affected land is a barren wasteland with no greenery, mountains, or other types of scenery. However, much of the land that is actually being affected is mountainous, green, and a haven for many types of wildlife as I stated above. This lack of forthrightness is very disturbing.

**I-267-006**

Additionally, in the Fall 2008 Revisions to the San Luis Valley Electric System Improvement Project, Summary of Siting Process it is indicated that, "Some corridor segments (A, B, L, M, O, P) were removed from further consideration during the siting process based on the need to route the proposed transmission line further north to connect to the new Calumet Substation." This is, in fact, untrue if the maps on your web site are accurate and up to date as Sheet Map 4 indicates that the project will affect segment O which is where my family's lots, as well as the lot owned by the Kimbrough Family Trust are located.

I do not underestimate the power of the companies who are planning this project or the people who support the project taking out my property instead of their own, i.e. the Forbes family, however, my family will take any and all action necessary, legal and otherwise, to prevent this project from ruining our most precious asset.

Sincerely,

Anna Schauman Barron, JD

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### **I-267-003: Public Involvement Process (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The project is in the planning and environmental review stages. Current project information will be available on the RUS project website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and the Utilities' project website, <http://www.socotransmission.com/>.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **I-267-004: Correction to Data (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The information you provided will be verified and project materials will be updated accordingly.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **I-267-005: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **I-267-006: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/22/2009

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